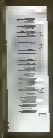

Hunter

NOTE ON SITES OF HURON VILLAGES

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BULLETIN OF THE SIMCOE COUNTY PIONEER AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
November 1911

HISTORIC SITES OF TAY

By
Andrew F. Hunter, M. A.

Reprinted from the Author's Notes on Sites of Huron Villages in Tay with additions.

BARRIE, ONTARIO
1911

PRESS OF BARRIE SATURDAY MORNING

Present Appearance of the Environs of St. Marie.

Looking across the Wye River.

The illustration shows the ruins of the main trench in the river bank at its junction with

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STE MARIE ON THE WYE

The remains of St Marie on the Wye fortified mission built by the Jesuits in 1639 and occupied by them as their headquarters until 1649 when the mission, of which Jean de Brebeuf was the head, was broken up and the Indian converts scattered, are of the greatest interest to the student of Canadian history. Nowhere else in Canada can be found such extensive and well preserved remains of a fortified post of the early days of the French occupation. Nowhere else in Canada, indeed nowhere else in North America, can be found such remains of any fortified post of the early days of European occupation. In North America there are the ruins of the old Spanish mission of St. Augustine in Florida, and the ruins of the old Spanish mission of Santa Fe in New Mexico, but neither building nor ruins can be found in any other part of North America, either Spanish or French, that can be compared with the ruins of St. Marie on the Wye.

One of the features of the fortifications of St. Marie which immediately struck the beholder was the great thickness of the walls. Where the walls were not more than three feet thick, as was the case in the Indian stockades of the period, the walls of St. Marie were from six to eight feet thick. The walls were built of stone, and were pierced with loopholes for musketry. The walls were not only built of stone, but the stone was laid in mortar, a feature which was unknown in the Indian stockades of the period. The walls were built in the form of a square, with a bastion at each corner. The bastions were built of stone, and were pierced with loopholes for musketry. The bastions

a right angle from the main branch. These may also have been carried there when the fort was abandoned, but the position is not such as would naturally be chosen for the purpose, and could not this archway, a passage for canoes and [illegible] by which the whole of the [illegible] appear to have been covered.

A manuscript in the Advocates' Library, dated 1682 by the Rev. John [illegible], gives the following engraving, made by photozincography from a rough sketch which was in existence at that time, but which has since disappeared. The work is interesting as showing the condition of the fort nearly two hundred years ago, and the

RIVER WYE
Wood
Wood
Wood

[illegible] but [illegible] direction by compass in a northerly direction to Mud Lake, but [illegible] access [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

narrow at the river to the top of the bank, where the main mouth opens. This mound is rising back, but probably was once flush with the bank. The river bank is somewhat lifted forty yards distant as a raised beach ground. So it would appear to have been a small native fort or a site to completely fill all the known conditions.

The entrance to the harbour is the north of Beausoleil Island, between Main Lake and Georgian Bay, is rather narrow. There is a more than one stone height on that of the Big Island. When he was there in the winter there is only with each change in the direction of the wind and here the wind sometimes a great influence upon the height of the water in the deep waters of Matchedash Bay. But a little above the mouth of the river is a shoal, which is completely uncovered and when it blows from the north-east. Accordingly one can measure the distance that a ship may be from the shore in about one of the ports of entry and consequently the supply of timber from which some of the [illegible] Georgian Bay ports. The depth of the bar is a matter of the water level, and consequently [illegible] ports. The good harbour is the one which gives [illegible] Matchedash Bay and that of the white pine. Some of the timber found which was also upon the water's edge. The depth of the harbour [illegible] ports.

It seems [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

The higher ground of level sandy beach, many places more deeply scarred with boat-tracks near the present clearance, and this evidence now gives an explanation of some features on the map of 1854 [illegible] as the R-v- Indian Dwellings [illegible] appear on the shores of the lake about 1904-5 but one may well have run inland still [illegible] The [illegible] dwellings of that age, about sixteenth to nineteenth [illegible] century, by piling upon previous [illegible] of the old shore line and it would be difficult [illegible] to [illegible] anything about the [illegible] even after making due allowance for the lack of any actual survey by its makers. There is a wide discrepancy in the contour, between the 600ft Colbeater Bay as shown on the map and the actual high water stage of old day. (See engraving, p. 15)

An descriptions of Ste Marie have often appeared in books and pamphlets a list of some of these will suffice to confer with a few bibliographical notes on the problems of these older works to pursue the subject further. The description by the Rev. Pere Martin published in his Life of Jogues and in his Lettres edifiantes, is the earliest account and as such of the greatest interest, and describes the fort in 1855 when it was in a more complete condition than it is at present.

Bibliography of Ste. Marie.

Adam, G. Mercer. Georgian Bay and the Muskoka Lakes. (Picturesque Canada) Toronto, 1884.

A page and [illegible] on [illegible] of Fort Ste. Marie on the Wye and [illegible]

Bain, Jas. Jr. The present [illegible] on the old French Fort at Ste Marie [illegible] and [illegible] Set Index to Ill. 880 pp. [illegible]

The [illegible] its substance in a paper read before the Institute in 1865

Boyle, David. Ste Marie. (From the Archaeological Report. Toronto, 1891

This was issued as an Appendix to the Report of the Minister of Education for Ont. in 1891. The notes on Ste Marie at pages 19 and 20 deal chiefly with the [illegible] on the site.

Brossard, Rev P. J. Relation Abregee [Montreal, 1852. Edited by R. F. [illegible]

This is a French translation from the Italian of Father Brossard's Breve Relazione. It has various references to Ste Marie and contains also at page 330 some notes on the mines by the editor with a sample of the fort.

Charlevoix, Francois X de. History and General Description of New France

In Book VII there is a description of Ste. Marie.

Harvey, Arthur, and Alan Macdougall. Forty-fifth Annual Report of the Canada Methodist Historical Society. Vol. III. 1912.

This contains a carefully executed plan of the excavations on Ste Marie by the Canadian Institute in 1911-12 and [illegible] some [illegible] of the fort, and [illegible] the same date [illegible] during the work.

Hunter, A. F. Ste Marie on the Wye. (Reprint Relation of the Jesuit Relations 73 vols. Cleveland, 1896-1901)

Vol. 18 contains a note on Ste Marie at page 268, with sketch map at page 270.

James, C. C. The Iroquois of the Huron Nation. Trans. of the Royal Society of Canada, Vol. 12, 1906

This has the plans of Ste. Marie made by Dr. W. H. Hall in 1901. Also a reproduction p. 142 from Rev F Martin's notes on the fort in Auto-biographie du R. P. Chaumonot.

Jones, Rev. A. E. Sainte Marie or Old Huronia. (Fifth Report of the Ontario Bureau of Archives, 1908.

This contains pp. 9-11 Rev. Peter Martin's description from the MS. of Ste Marie in 1855, with the colored sketch.

Lalemant, Jerome. Relation de ce qui s'est passé en la mission des Hurons. (June, 1637 to June, 1640

Chap IV contains an account of the founding of Ste. Marie.

Martin, Rev Felix. Life of Jogues. (Second edition Paris, 1878)

Appendix A contains a carefully written description of Ste Marie, which Father Martin visited in 1855.

Parkman, Francis. Jesuits in North America in the Seventeenth Century. Various editions.

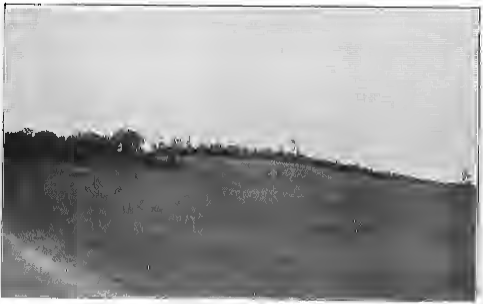
In Chap 25 there is a description of Ste Marie, based mainly upon the Jesuit Relations.

Ragueneau, Pere Paul. Relation de ce qui s'est passé en la Mission des Peres de la Compagnie de Jesus aux Hurons, es années 1648, et 1649. This contains accounts of the destruction of the Huron Villages by the Iroquois and of the martyrdom of P. P. Br...

ST. LOUIS IDENTIFIED WITH THE MODERNIST VILLAGE SITE

The next step in these notes will be to know some light upon the position of the Jesuit mission among the Hurons, of whom Ste. Marie was the centre; more particularly to find the village they called St. Louis, where the missionaries, Jean de Brébeuf and Gabriel Lalemant, were captured and slain the third year after St. Ignace where they were put to death.

At a part of the farm of John McPherson, but in consequence of there [illegible] of blackened soil and pottery, is one which rises [illegible] to high soil, to bear the like colouring, the white and sand hollow of the but a little way into the east half. It is planted on a conspicuous hill, [illegible] surrounded by low ground, free [illegible] and commanding a [illegible] such a position. It is evidently proper for the village had [illegible] indeed that in addition to this evidence the [illegible] [illegible] unmistakably confirmed in this work, especially through the position of the [illegible] the ancient village site. From this point to Ste. Marie by the [illegible] to about a mile. Just west of the site [illegible] springs from which the boys take and a place that supply fresh water. [illegible] while plastering, on the north side, years ago, found an earthen pot which broke on being disturbed and an implement similar to [illegible] Northward from the village [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]



The Probable Site of St. Louis

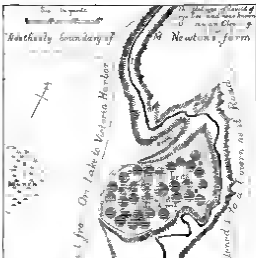
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

The Probable Site of St. Ignace.

On the point of ground in the bend of the Mackinac Island road, supposed Huron village

I [illegible] IDENTIFIED WITH THE NEWTON VILLAGE SITE.

Th[illegible] ...ossession has been in question for many years a[illegible] ...ever since Mr. Bruce's death has never been settled, [illegible] ...ssession now seems sufficient to warrant the erection of his Memo[illegible]


Southerly boundary of 10 Newton's farm
Lake Ontario
Old Lake or Victoria Harbor
Present Lake Ontario
Mouth of Tay River
Hogg Hill
Ferry
Ferry House
Farm house
Farm house
Farm house

as it has since been of later Algonquin tribes. In other words, the aboriginal Huron in the district were such that Indians further westward became the focus of trade of the Huron population has rarely extended from the head of the navigation of natural passages, since when the Huron ceased to appear as home from their very centre, the heart of the Huron confederacy, the Huron missionaries and in 1645 of Governor the Huron would not as prerequisite have discussed their return immediately after the capture of many tens of thousands of their unfortunate fellow-men of the ordinary unfortified kinds. It appears from the map as would that Duncan's map is a guide for the province of the river of Canada and not half of 1640.

Through the land of Quinte Huron for, the west half of lot 11 concession 6 Tay the Huron Bluff has runs a deep path in the old Indian and deposits to a depth ranging from fifteen to twenty feet. In this part of its course the river makes a wide horse-shoe bend, and the Indian village was deep. Many fine village relics in a mass of debris. (See illustration)

Having traveled on foot of these evidence the spot of ground including large slopes of a gentle inclination to the river. This ground is level with sandbank and blackened earth, mixed with flint. The latter consists of two formations, Primary pieces of flint as out of very fine-grained limestone and pottery. These are very numerous and these relics show that the site was one of some importance. Some of a very fine quality of the Huron occupation of the district. Many of the specimens of the flint and pottery just mentioned which has been of such good use by the public such the Mr. Wilson possessed a fine stone a mass of large cutting from Wheel age of a in a bend the village form-stone, the southward age is as on a bend may have extended as far north as the site that although he evidence ground no longer shows any traces of the earth lodge. From it a mile to Sta. Mary's the distance is 3½ miles.

A little across from Ont Lake by the way of Waverley and just before reach in this stage the divides the two streams one passing down each side of the town. Whose most remark- be the Red Clearing" further much on lot of as he has been the Indian Clearing" as the Red down the old side as fail as the Indian Clearing" had there to the mouth of the river was widened many paces ago site a Government timber road but is now de- ered it is probable his re-cut Indian Clearing" a deep the passage to who would no permit of the ground but trees rather than to actual cutting by his aborigines. Who would of origin I may certain y a I feel it, indeed. A map a Indian who fell owed partly a partly the paths of that, predecessors the Hurons.

It is not problem a the site is the very long was of Ignace, the Huron village captured by the Iroquois. The only surprise of March 16 1649 and the pass a which boy enough as can was Father Brebeuf and Lalemant a few hours also and there tortured him to death in distance from Ste Marie no earlier pass by not with the records all the writers agreeing the was was then we suppose this is on and until a tragic now 5 1 years which agreed well with the site of Mr Wilson's mile. But the strongest side not a a he conclusive on of the ground The Rev J Ferguson a account of the place in 1640 suggests a path of the village and to no and and and and a beforehand what appearances we may expect to find there. He says:—

"It was surrounded by a palisade of posts from fifteen to sixteen feet

[illegible] a deep trench (fosse) with which Saltus had powerfully [illegible] was on three sides, a ditch [illegible] was through the part [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

A conspicuous refuse heap toward the northeast interested the site engrossed our attention. This yielded the usual coarse pottery sherds and shards and wads of burnt food remains (especially animal bones and lentil clam shells, etc. Also the significant bottom sherds of fragments of bark in the upper part of the heap yielded quite from a few hundred bark cloth beaters, each of a different pattern, the former coming from very various heaps of my experiences.

On April 29, 1902 the plow turned up a small bronze idol or token at a place near the easterly end of the city. On one side was found the German motto Gottesgnaden sei mir hold. On the other was engraved the crown and the name of Frederick the Second, King of Prussia. The object was in fact the same as Frederick the Second medallion in Nuremberg which was famous for its peculiar features in having the motto in the wrong order. It was not true to the main information of the model Samuel Phillips Noble, of Savannah, Georgia, had the writer was able to get a few specimens of this medal through the courtesy of the Wilhelm Carnes Furniture Store in Savannah, Georgia, and Mr. Lyman H. Low a specialist on coins and medals, and Professor Low of New York. The medal is what is called a [illegible] and Kaiser Karl, whether it was a maker of these in Nuremberg during the period from 1860 to 1900. These counters were originally used by shopkeepers in counting money in which cases the Latin expression [illegible]

Within the northeast side of the pagoda there is a line of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Hunter

NOTE ON SITES OF HURON VILLAGES

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY
November, 1911

HISTORIC SITES OF TAY

By
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BARRIE, ONTARIO
1911

PRESS OF BARRIE SATURDAY MORNING

Present Appearance of the Environs of Ste. Marie.

(Looking across the Wye River)

The illustration shows the out et of the main trench in the river bank at the extreme left

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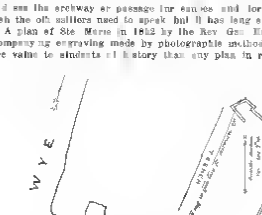
STE MARIE ON THE WYE

The remains of Ste Marie, the fortified mission built by the Jesuits in 1639 and occupied by them for ten years are on lot 16 concession 3 of Tay Near the ruin flows the Wye River about 100 yards in width but about twelve feet lower than when it filled the empty moats or trenches which may still be seen The fourth is the most noteworthy object of historic interest in Simcoe County though in its present crumbled condition it is only a ruin of a ruin Indeed it is the oldest stone ruin (of European construction) in America, because while the native ruins in Central America and Mexico may antedate Ste Marie no other building of white men does

One of the features of the ruin is the system of artificial trenches made for the protection of the place when it was in use, or what the English translator of Isaiah would call its "brooks of defence" The fort stands on a corner formed by two of these trenches one branching off at

a right angle from the main trench. These may still be seen although they show less clearly than when the first settlers came, especially the parts at the southwest corner of the fort. It was at this corner where one raised was the archway or passage for entries and for getting water, of which the old settlers used to speak, but it has long since collapsed.

A plan of Ste. Marie in 1852 by the Rev. Geo. Hallen furnishes the accompanying engraving made by photographic methods. This will be of more value to students of history than any plan in recent years as the



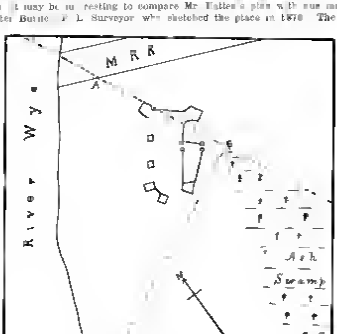
Plan of Ste. Marie on the Wye By the Rev. Geo. Hallen (in 1852).

present condition of the fort scarcely admits of the making of a sketch showing its original profile. Although the small tracing of the fort in the Rev. Felix Martin's Montreal print on "Brossard's Relation" was copied from this plan of Mr. Hallen's, it lacks a number of the details of this original sketch, especially the mouth.

On the original sketch Mr. Hallen wrote a note that is worthy of attention—"In the (easterly) Bastion is an instance of the flank of a bastion being curved with its convexity towards the corner of the work instead of being rectilinear." The original sketch also furnishes me with means for the measurement of the dimensions of the fort. The curtains on the two sides fortified by stonework are approximately 110 and 87 feet in length, while the extreme measurements in straight lines along the same sides (i. e. including the widest reaches of the bastions) are about 180 and 140 feet. The distance from the fort to the river is 44 yards. The trench along the southerly end does not continue in this diagram beyond the

stockwork but it did actually continue in a southerly direction to Mud Lake, thus giving double access for water coming into the trenches.

As every observer records features that do not strike another observer it may be interesting to compare Mr Bates's plan with one made by Peter Burnet, P.L. Surveyor who sketched the place in 1876. The latter



Plan of Ste Marie on the Wye (1876)
By Peter Burnett, P.L. Surveyor
AB is the line between east and west halves of Lot 16
BC is the northerly line of demarcation of an acre in the west half / and a separate ownership

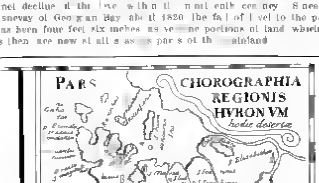
plan includes all the environs on the west half of lot 16 but we reproduce therefrom only the significant items. The structures marked by Mr Burnet along the western side are still extant.

The visitor to Ste Marie at the present day will observe how the trenches are now entirely destitute of water, the river being many feet below and incapable of filling them. On the day the writer first measured the amount of this drop (September 12 1901) it was ten feet from the

surface of the river to the top of the bank where the main trench enters. The throw of this bank has probably suffered from denudation, and the fort itself is now more than forty yards distant on slightly higher ground. So it would appear to require at least twelve feet of a rise to completely fill all the empty trenches.

The surface of the Wye in this part of its course, that between Mud Lake and Georgian Bay, a distance of about a mile, has the same height as that of the Bay itself. When the surface of the water rises or falls with any change in the direction of the wind (and here the wind exercises a great influence over the height of the water in the long arms of Matchedash Bay), there arises a current which flows inward or outward according to circumstances and when in flow it is here called a "tide". Accordingly, our estimate of the fall of the river by twelve feet since the abandonment of the fort in 1649, as shown by the empty trenches, also holds good of the surface of the stream itself. The old water-front, as a gauge of the water-level at the time of the fall, also appears to be used for the erosion possible at the present time. A considerable amount of the drag of the water from Six Mile Creek itself, which was also upon the waters during 1649, but is now quite inoperative, thus ceased.

It seems this low-rising of the water-level did not cease suddenly. Only one-third of a bank possessing an antiquity of the century and persons who lived until recent years stated that when they came to Hillsdale in when the Georgian Bay was above low-water mark, and that the level continued to fall independently of each other. Due allowance is necessary for the effect of the wind and for the time of the year at which the observation is made as it appears to be subject to great fluctuations with the seasons when the surrounding land was cleared. But making any allowance, the evidence establishes a distinct decline in the level within the memory of living persons. Since Benfield's survey of Georgian Bay about 1820 the fall of level to the present time has been four feet, six inches as to some portions of land which were islands then are now at all seasons parts of the mainland.



The Huron Map in Sanson's "Missions Canadenses" (1660)

The higher shore line of 1649 would be in many places more deeply serrated with bays than the present shoreline as I this circumstance gives an explanation of some features on the map of this territory in the Rev Father Dirreux's History which represents the shores as they were about 1666-8 but the map itself was not issued until 1688 (The reproduction of this map shows it as an exact copy from the original by photographic methods) It is really a map of the old shore line, and it would be difficult to identify it with the existing shore line of to-day even after making due allowance for the lack of any actual survey by its makers There is a wide discrepancy, for example between the long Coldwater Bay as shown on the map and the actual Bay as it is to-day (See engraving)

As descriptions of Ste Marie have often appeared in books and pamphlets a list of some of these will perhaps be useful, with a few bibliographical notes for the guidance of those who may wish to pursue the subject further The description by the Rev Felix Martin published in his Life of Jogues and in his various other writings is the earliest account and is worthy of the reader's attention as he visited the fort in 1845 when it was in a more complete condition than it is in at present

Bibliography of Ste. Marie

Adam, G. Mercer. Georgian Bay and the Muskoka Lakes (Picturesque Canada, Vol II Toronto, 1882)

At page 382 there is an account of Fort Ste Marie on the Wye and the Hurons

Baie Jean de The present condition of the old French Fort at Ste Marie (Proc Canad Institute 3rd Series Vol III 1886 pp 278 279

This contains the substance of a paper read before the Institute in 1885

Boyle David Ste Marie (Fourth Archaeological Report, Toronto 1891)

This was issued as an Appendix to the Report of the Minister of Education for Ontario The notice on Ste Marie at pages 19 and 19 deals chiefly with its condition in 1890 1

Brossard, Rev. P. J. Relation Abregee (Montreal 1852 Edited by the Rev Felix Martin)

This is a French translation from the Italian of Father Brossard's Breve Relatione It has various references to Ste Marie, and contains also at page 333 some notes on the ruins by the editor with a small plan of the fort

Charlevoix Francois X de. History and General Description of New France

In Book VII, there is a description of Ste Marie.

Harvey Arthur and Alan Macdougall Forty third Annual Report of the Canad Institute Transactions 4th series Vol III 1893

This contains a reference to the excavation to Ste Marie by the Canadian Institute in Sept 28 1891 and mentions some features of the fort, including the water gate recognized during the visit.

Hunter, A. F. Ste. Marie on the Wye. (Burrows' Reprints of the Jesuit Relations, 73 vols. Cleveland, 1896-1901)

Vol. 19 contains a note on Ste. Marie I. page 269 with sketch map at page 270.

James, C. C. The Downfall of the Huron Nation. Trans. of the Royal Society of Canada, Vol. 12. (1906)

This has the photo of Ste. Marie made by Dr. W. H. Ellis in 1894. Also a reprint (p. 343) from Rev. P. Martin's notes on the fort in Auto-hthographie du R. P. Chaumonot.

Jones, Rev. A. E. Sandstone Effigy or Old Hannah. (Fifth Report of the Ontario Bureau of Archives, 1908.

This contains (p. 9-11) Rev. Fox Morin's description (from the MS.) of Ste. Marie in 1895, with the only known sketch.

Lalemant, Jerome. Relation de ce qui s'est passé en la mission des Hurons. (Jesuit Relations, 1639 to Jesuit 1640.

Chap. IX. contains an account of the founding of Ste. Marie.

Martin, Rev. Felix. Life of Jogues. (Second edition, London, 1878.)

Appendix A. contains a carefully written description of Ste. Marie, which Father Martin visited in 1855.

Parkman, Francis. Jesuits in North America in the Seventeenth Century. (Various editions.)

In Chap. 28 there is a description of Ste. Marie based mainly upon the Jesuit Relations.

Sagard-Theodat, Rev. Paul. Relation de ce qui s'est passé en la Mission des Peres de la Compagnie de Jesus Aux Hurons, es années 1648 et 1649.

This contains accounts of the destruction of the Huron villages by the Iroquois with numerous references to Ste. Marie.

ST LOUIS IDENTIFIED WITH THE McDERMITT VILLAGE SITE.

Our next step in these Notes will be to throw some light upon the positions of the Jesuit missions among the Hurons, of which Ste. Marie was the centre; more particularly to find the village they called St. Louis, where the missionaries, Jean de Brebeuf and Gabriel Lalemant, were captured and also the other called St. Ignace where they were put to death.

At a part of the farm of John McDermitt (lot 15, run sessions 4) there are accumulations of blackened soil and ash-beds, mixed with Huron relics. This village site is near the line between the west and east halves of the lot, but a little way into the east half. It is situated on a conspicuous hill, almost surrounded by low ground (see illustration) and on account of occupying such a position it is evident (prima facie) that the village was also palisaded. But in addition to this evidence, the light snow cover that I have recently observed in this district, not only covered the positions of the palisade line around the village site. From this place to Ste. Marie the distance in a bee line is about 2½ miles. Just west of the site of the same springs from which the village had a plentiful supply of fresh water. A workman who ploughing on the site some years ago found an earthen pot (which broke on being disturbed) and in it were six raw beaver-jawbones. Northward from the village there was a graveyard containing a few burials which so far as observed were of the lowland or angle type. Among these on all the workmen found the skeleton of a person of large proportions. Aug. McDermitt, brother of the owner counted twenty lodges at the site. The ashbeds of the dump fires being in some places as much as three feet in thickness when the forest was first cleared away.

(a) It is most probable the site is that of St. Louis one of the Huron villages taken by the Iroquois, March 16 1649—the one at which they captured the Jesuit missionaries Brebeuf and Lalemant and thence took them to St. Ignace where they put them to death. Among the considerations that lead up to this conclusion are the following:—

(a) The area as reckoned by Mr. McDermitt when it was freshly cultivated, viz. twenty lodges (and counting the usual number of four or five families to every lodge) would give nearly the area of St. Louis as recorded by the Rev. Paul Ragueneau who wrote the first account of it. According to that chronicler about 800 Hurons had forsaken the place at the first alarm leaving 80 warriors only to fight the Iroquois.

(b) It was on the only route from Ste. Marie eastward to Victoria Harbor which was the road to all the Huron people then living in this locality as remains clearly show. The ground turned duly south of this lot I was, in Hutton lines, quite impassable for such travelling as carriage consisting of hummocks surrounded by thickets and by small streams flowing into Mud Lake. And so far as the southerly ground has been examined it yields no traces of villages or burials.

(c) The relics found at this site are of such kinds (French iron tomahawks etc.) as to show that this was a village of the very latest period of the Huron occupation of this district. The existence of palisading also tends to prove the same because, farther back in the ossuary, the Huron villages of earlier date seldom had palisades. Of all the fortified villages belonging to that latest period yet found this is the nearest to Ste. Marie.

(d) As to the distance of St. Louis from Ste. Marie a little apparent

The Probable Site of St. Louis

On this hill [illegible] on the [illegible] and [illegible] villages

versely to the evidence furnished by the records confronts us, but it is apparent rather than real. The Rev. Paul Ragueneau (Relation . . 1648) gives us the distance as not more than a league (2.42 English miles); but Christophe Regnaut explicitly makes it much less. (See letter, Canadian Archives Report (1904). The latter writer uses the name "St. Ignace" (really applied to the mission among all these villages) as Ragueneau also tells us for the village to which the two missionaries had set out, and does not mention the name "St. Louis." Regnaut gives the distance as about a short "quarter of a league" from Ste Marie. The site under consideration therefore, is not at variance with the conditions prescribed by either of these writers or by the Rev. F. J. Bressani, who (in his "Breve Relatione") says the distance was not more than two Italian miles from Ste. Marie. (An Italian mile was 122 yards less than an English mile). The Rev. A. E. Jones S.J. disputes the testimony of Regnaut as to this distance on the ground that his narrative is dated 20 years afterwards when he was 60 years old and so perhaps liable to lapse of memory. (Ontario Archæological Report, 1902 p. 90). I do not see that it is necessary to consider Regnaut's plan honest statement he is unskilled in a fair hearing as in four months all his words. And the significant incidental remains of human men (Aquentuan & Asnan and Aagcand) who must on the distance of the nearest village from Ste Marie Regnaut was the only one who actually travelled over the ground itself at the time you a few hours after the massacre.

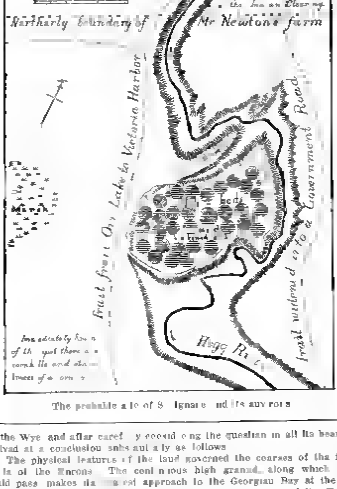
(c) Wherever situated it is a fact that St. Louis could be seen from St. Marie as all the writers agree in stating that those in the fort could see the burning of the village. This furnishes a well authenticated test. From the several conditions upon the ground I found that, looking eastward from Ste Marie the only place where spectators could see a fire in the distance was at this very site. A small tract of cleared ground rising out of evergreen thickets closes the view from Ste Marie toward the southeast and disqualifies the sites further along the trail at the head of Victoria Harbour from being St. Louis.

Peri McNicoll the new eastern terminal of the C P R on Georgian Bay lies about a mile north eastward from this village site.

The Probable Site of St. Ignace.
On the plat of ground in the loop of the Joseph River in the west of ... pa inaded Huron village

ST IGNACE II IDENTIFIED WITH THE NEWTON VILLAGE SITE.

The position of St Ignace has been an open question for many years. At least half a dozen places have been suggested, the writer in 1879 visited all the Huron village sites within a reasonable distance of Ste Maria


Scale in yards
Northerly boundary of
Mr Newton's farm
Forest growth on Lake to Victoria Harbor
Forest growth on the Government Reserve
Hogg Bay

The probable site of St Ignace and its surroundings

on the Wye and after carefully considering the question in all its bearings arrived at a conclusion substantially as follows

The physical features of the land governed the courses of the forest trails of the Hurons The continuous high ground along which trails could pass makes its nearest approach to the Georgian Bay at the head of Victoria Harbor Here then was the commercial centre of the Hurons

as it has also been of later Algonquin tribes. In other words, the physical features of the district were such that Victoria Harbor naturally became the farms or centre of the Huron population. The fields radiating from the head of the harbor in several directions in and along the higher ground, it appears to have been the very centre of the Huron manufacture. The Iroquois attacked in 1649 either as the Hurons would not be preoccupied have assailed them usually immediately after the maizes of only one of their villages, had these villages been of the ordinary annual fort kinds. (It should be borne in mind that Dutrenx's map is a guide for the position of the earlier St. Ignace and not that of 1649).

Through the kind of Chas. E. Newton, Esq. the well belief of let it concession 6 Tay, the Rev. Mr. Hegler, Orillia has run a deep path to the old fish bed deposits in a depth varying from fifteen to twenty feet. In this part of its course the river makes a loop somewhat like the letter U, which unloses an ideal spot for a village easily long means of defence. (See illustration).

Burons selected for such sites a large flat piece of ground containing about five acres in the bend of the river. The ground is covered with underbrush and timbered as it was with the white. The latter consisted of iron tomahawks, knives, pieces of metal and of worn-out brass kettles and pottery fragments in endless quantities. All these relics show that the site was one of these occupied down to the very latest period of the Huron occupation of the district. There was empty inches of the site, and a potsherd, just south of it, where the clay is of such good quality for plastic work that Mr. Newton experimented successfully in making terra cotta from it. What appears to have been the village proper petch recent southward as far as houses on lot 10 and it may have extended as far north as the site itself although the cultivated ground no longer shows any traces of the earth hills. From this site to Six Mazza the distance is 3½ miles.

A trail comes from Gun Lake by the way of Waverley and just before reaching this village site divides into two strands one passing down each side of the river. These meet again at the "Indian Clearing" further south on lot 12 as the diagram shows. The trail down the east side as far as the "Indian Clearing" and thence to the mouth of the river was widened many years ago into a Government lumber road but is now disused and is probably the so-called "Indian Clearing" as far as the present writer would not permit of the growth of trees rather than is animal pleasing by its abruptness. But whatever its origin it was certainly a recent of modern Algonquin Indians who followed pretty closely the paths of their predecessors the Hurons.

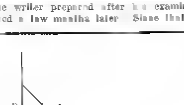
It is most probable also that the river's bend was St. Ignace the Huron village replaced by the Iroquois in the early morning of March 16 1649 and the place to which they brought as captives Fathers Brebeuf and Lalemont a few hours later and there tortured them to death. Its distance from Ste. Marie coincides pretty well with the records all the writers agreeing that it was less than two leagues (five miles) and about a league from St. Louis which agrees well with the site of Ste. Marie mill. But the strongest evidence as to the assumption of the ground. The Rev. F. Ragueneau's account of the place (Autumn 1649) suggests a plan of the village and its surroundings and tells us beforehand what appearances we may expect to find there. He says:—

"It was surrounded by a palisade of posts from fifteen to sixteen feet

high and by a deep trench (fosse), with which Nature had powerfully strengthened the places three sides, a small space alone remaining weaker than the others. It was through that part the enemy forced his entrance."

While this description of St Ignace will suit in some measure almost any palisaded site, it means these were as a rule placed on a spur of land, the completeness of its fortification by a trench, effected by Nature in this case was such as to attract the attention of the clergyman who wrote the description just quoted. (As the destruction of the place occurred in March when the Hogg River would be covered with ice, its own existence in the gulley or trench would not be conspicuous enough to attract a recorder's attention). After a diligent search through all the sites of the locality I can find none that so exactly agrees with this description of St. Ignace as this site on Mr. Newton's farm.

LATER EXAMINATION OF THIS SITE. The foregoing account is substantially the one the writer prepared after his examination of the site in 1899 and published a few months later. Since that time he has



Cross Section of Palisade and Fosse

given further attention to the site at various times, and has become even more firmly convinced that I was St Ignace. The following particulars relate to evidence from examinations since the first account appeared.

At different times when examining the palisading I used a light iron crow bar (three quarter inch iron final long) driving it into the ground and repeatedly along numerous lines of tests selected from where the subsoil and signs of habitation ceased and passing outward across the margin of the village site. At every stroke the crowbar sinks to the depth of the pointed iron, very little effort is made in this way I always two places with softer subsoil by sinking to much greater depths. In mind these places are filled feet apart and centre of the palisade line the softer being the palisade mould, the hard feel of the natural subsoil. The spade always shows disturbance in the color of the subsoil wherever the crowbar indicates this has by sinking deeper than usual. The filled mould on this side was good material for the insertion of palisades by aboriginal methods but not good for preserving traces of the palisades themselves being too porous. Some traces however of the palisading are left in the blackening of the earth subsoil below the glacial depth.

A commodious refuse heap toward the northwest quarter of the site received our attention. This yielded the usual ashes mingle with potsherds and waste of flint, food supplies, especially animal bones and teeth, clam shells, etc. But the significant feature was an abundance of traces of bark in the upper part of the heap, evidently debris from a collapsed bark cabin such as this particular it differed from the former ordinary refuse heaps of my experience.

On April 28, 1902, the plow turned up a small bronze medal or token at a place near the eastern end of the site. On one side this bears the German motto "Gotthsgaben sol man loben" (God's gifts ought to be praised). The other side has the name of Hanns Krauwinckel, with the letters, "IN NU" i.e. "In Nuremberg," which was famous for its manufactures in bronze the material in the medal itself. It was not easy to obtain information of the maker Hanns Krauwinckel in Canadian libraries, but the writer was able to get a few particulars about him through the courtesy of Dr. W. Bertram Stone of the New York Public Library and Mr. Lyman H. Low a specialist on coins and medals 237 Fourth Ave. New York. The medal is what is called a counter and Hanns Krauwinckel was a maker of these at Nuremberg during the period from 1586 to 1601. These counters were restrunk at later periods in the same issues to which cities this a specimen belongs.

Within the northerly side of the palisade there is a line of whitish substance mixed with the soil though now faintly defined from having been disturbed by the plough. A fragment of it is crumbled deposit when examined by a chemist at my request proved to be old mortar. This line of deposit resembles the shape of the letter L as it from two sides of a rubbish with lengths of about 10 feet and 15 feet the angle of the latter pointing to a northerly direction. Its position is on the highest rise of the somewhat flat site and at its north side. As the Indians did not make and use mortar this was doubtless the work of the French men. (The records contain evidence that the Jesuits maintained a lodge of some kind at St. Ignace.)

Indications such as the foregoing tend to show that this was St. Ignace. The Rev. A. E. Jones selected a spot about three miles farther from Ste. Marie since I fixed upon this Newton site but the more definite place has not even yet been my find as one of a dozen village sites of any kind as I have pointed out elsewhere. The proof of the question rests not so much upon theoretical assertions or claims as upon what evidence the ground itself furnishes. And the authentic evidences at the Newton site as furnished by the use of the spade have been gradually increasing.

Hunter

NOTE ON SITES OF HURON VILLAGES

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BULLETIN OF THE SIMCOE COUNTY PIONEER AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
November, 1911

HISTORIC SITES OF TAY

By
Andrew F. Hunter, M. A.

Reprinted from the Author's "Notes on Sites of Huron Villages in Tay," with additions

BARRIE, ONTARIO
1911

PRESS OF BARRIE SATURDAY MORNING

Present Appearance of the Environs of Ste. Marie.

(Looking across the Wye River)

The illustration shows the outlet of the main trench in the river bank, at the extreme left

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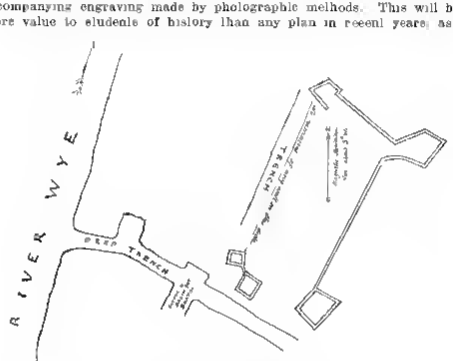
STE MARIE ON THE WYE

The remains of Ste Marie the fortified mission built by the Jesuits in 1639 and occupied by them for ten years are on lot 16 concession 3, of Tay Near the ruin flows the Wye River about 100 yards in width but about twelve feet lower than when it filled the empty moats or trenches which may still be seen This fort is the most noteworthy object of historic interest in Simcoe County though in its present crumbled condition it is only a ruin of a ruin Indeed it is the oldest stone ruin (of European construction) in America because while the native ruins in Central America and Mexico may antedate Ste Marie no other building of white men does

One of the features of the ruin is the system of artificial trenches made for the protection of the place when it was in use or what the English translator of Isaiah would call its "brooks of defence." The fort stands on a corner formed by two of these trenches, one branching off at

a right angle from the main trench. These may still be seen, although they show less clearly than when the first settlers came, especially the parts at the southwest corner of the fort. It was at this corner where one could see the archway or passage for canoes and for getting water, of which the old settlers used to speak, but it has long since collapsed.

A plan of Ste. Marie in 1852 by the Rev. Geo. Hallen furnishes the accompanying engraving made by photographic methods. This will be of more value to students of history than any plan in recent years, as the



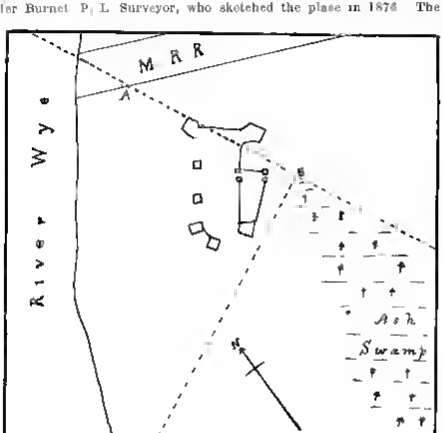
Plan of Ste. Marie on the Wye. By the Rev. Geo. Hallen (in 1852).

present condition of the fort scarcely admits of the making of a sketch showing its original profile. Although the small tracing of the fort in the Rev. Felix Martin's Montreal edition of Bressani's Relation was copied from this plan of Mr. Hallen's, it lacks a number of the details of this original sketch, especially the moats.

On the original sketch Mr. Hallen wrote a note that is worthy of attention—"In the (easterly) Bastion is an instance of the flank of a bastion being curved with its convexity towards the interior of the work, instead of being rectilinear." The original sketch also furnishes us with means for the measurement of the dimensions of the fort. The curtains on the two sides fortified by stonework are approximately 110 and 87 feet in length, while the extreme measurements in straight lines along the same sides (i. e. including the widest reaches of the bastions) are about 165 and 110 feet. The distance from the fort to the river is 44 yards. The trench along the southerly end does not continue in this diagram beyond the

stonework but it did actually continue in a southerly direction to Mud Lake, thus giving double access for water coming into the trenches

As every observer records features that do not "strike" another observer, it may be interesting to compare Mr Hallen's plan with one made by Peter Burnet, P. L. Surveyor, who sketched the place in 1874. The latter



Plan of Ste Marie on the Wye (1876)
By Peter Burnet, P. L. Surveyor
AB is the line between east and west halves of Lot 16
BC is the northerly line of demarcation of an area on the west half and a separate ownership

plan includes all the environs on the west half of lot 16 but we reproduce therefrom only the fortification itself. The structures marked by Mr Burnet along the western side are still extant

The visitor to Ste Marie at the present day will observe how the trenches are now entirely destitute of water the river being many feet below and incapable of filling them. On the day the writer first measured the amount of this drop (September 13, 1901), it was ten feet from the

surface of the river to the top of the bank where the main trench enters. The brow of this bank has probably suffered from denudation, and the fort itself is now more than forty yards distant on slightly higher ground. So it would appear to require at least twelve feet of a rise to completely fill all the empty trenches.

The surface of the Wye in this part of its course, viz. between Mud Lake and Georgian Bay a distance of about a mile, has the same height as that of the Bay itself. When the surface of the water rises or falls with any change in the direction of the wind (and here the wind exercises a great influence over the height of the water in the long arms of Matchedash Bay) there arises a current which flows inward or outward according to circumstances and when in flow it is here called a "tide." Accordingly our estimate of the fall of the river by twelve feet since the abandonment of the fort in 1649, as shown by the empty trenches, also holds good of the surface of Georgian Bay itself. The value of the river as a gauge of the water level is thus considerable, and it adds emphasis to the need for its careful preservation. One can obtain similar measurement of the drop of the water from Ste. Marie on Christian Island which was also upon the water's edge in 1649, but is now quite high above the present shore.

It seems this lowering of the water did not occur suddenly. Fully one-third of it took place within the nineteenth century, and persons who lived until recent years, and who remembered the time when the Georgian Bay was above four feet higher, have verified the fall independently of each other. Due allowance is necessary for the direction of the wind and for the time of the year at which the observation is made, as it appears to be subject to greater fluctuations with the seasons since the surrounding land was cleared. But making every allowance, the evidence establishes a distinct decline of the level within the nineteenth century. Since Bayfield's survey of Georgian Bay about 1820, the fall of level to the present time has been four feet six inches, as various portions of land which were islands then are now at all seasons parts of the mainland.

The Huron Map in Father DuCreux's "Historia Canadensis" (1660).

The higher shore line of 1843 would be in many places more deeply serrated with long bays than the present shoreline, and this circumstance gives an explanation of some features on the map of this territory in the Rev Father Ducreux's History which represents the shores as they were about 1640-5 but the map itself was not issued until 1670 (The reproduction of this map shown herewith is an exact copy from the original by photographic methods). It is really a map of the old shore line and it would be difficult to identify it with the existing shore line of to-day even after making due allowance for the lack of any actual survey by its maker. There is a wide discrepancy for example between the long Coldwater Bay as shown on the map and the actual Bay on maps of our day. (See engraving)

As descriptions of Ste Marie have often appeared in books and pamphlets a list of some of these will perhaps be useful with a few bibliographical notes for the guidance of those who may wish to pursue the subject further. The description by the Rev Felix Martin published in his Life of Jogues and in his various other writings is the earliest account and is worthy of the reader's attention as he visited the fort in 1855 when it was in a more complete condition than it is in at present

Bibliography of Ste Marie.

Adam, G. Mercer. Georgian Bay and the Muskoka Lakes (Picturesque Canada Vol II Toronto 1882).

At page 582 there is an account of Fort Ste Marie on the Wye and the Hurons

Bain Jas. Jr. The present condition of the old French Fort at Ste Marie (Proc Canad Institute 3rd Series. Vol III. 1886. pp 278-279.

This contains the substance of a paper read before the Institute in 1885

Boyle David. Ste Marie (Fourth Archaeological Report Toronto 1891)

This was issued as an Appendix to the Report of the Minister of Education for Ontario The notes on Ste Marie at pages 18 and 19 deal chiefly with its condition in 1890-1.

Bressani, Rev F. J. Relation Abregee (Montreal 1852. Edited by the Rev Felix Martin)

This is a French translation from the Italian of Father Bressani's "Breve Relatione" It has various references to Ste. Marie and contains also at page 333 some notes on the ruins by the editor with a small plan of the fort

Charlevoix, Francois X de. History and General Description of New France

In Book VII there is a description of Ste Maria

Harvey, Arthur and Alex Macdougall. Forty third Annual Report of the Canad Institute Transactions 4th series Vol III 1892

This contains a reference to the excursion to Ste Marie by the Canadian Institute on Sept 28 1891, and mentions some features of the fort, including the "water gate," recognized during the visit.

Hunter, A. F. Ste. Marie on the Wye. (Burrows' Reisgns. of the Jesuit Relations, 73 vols. Cleveland, 1896-1901)

Vol. 19 contains a note on Ste. Marie, at page 268, with sketch map at page 270.

Jamas, C. C. The Downfall of the Huron Nation. Trans. of the Royal Society of Canada, Vol. 12, (1906)

This has the photo of Ste. Marie made by Dr. W. H. Ellis in 1891. Also a reprint (p. 343) from Rev. F. Martin's notes on the fort in "Autobiographie du R. P. Chaumonot."

Jonas, Rev. A. E. Sendake Ehen, or Old Huronia. (Fifth Report of the Ontario Bureau of Archives, 1908).

This contains (p.p. 3-41) Rev. Felix Martin's description (from the MS.) of Ste. Marie in 1855, with the colored sketch.

Laimant, Jerome. Relation de ce qui s'est passe en la mission des Hurons (June 1639 to June 1640)

Chap. IV contains an account of the founding of Ste. Marie.

Martin, Rev. Felix. Life of Jogues. (Second edition. Paris, 1873).

Appendix A contains a carefully written description of Ste. Marie, which Father Martin visited in 1855.

Parkman, Francis. Jesuits in North America in the Seventeenth Century. (Various editions)

In Chap. 25 there is a description of Ste. Marie, based mainly upon the Jesuit Relations.

Ragueneau, Rev. Paul. Relation de ce qui s'est passe en la Mission des Peres de la Compagnie de Jesus Aux Hurons es annees 1648. et 1649.

This contains accounts of the destruction of the Huron villages by the Iroquois, with numerous references to Ste. Marie.

ST LOUIS IDENTIFIED WITH THE McDERMITT VILLAGE SITE

One next step in these Notes will be to threw some light upon the positions of the Jesuit missions among the Hurons at which Ste Marie was the centre. mers particularly to find the village they called St. Louis where the missionaries Jean de Brebeut and Gabriel Lalemant were captured and also the other called St Ignace where they were put to death

At a part of the farm of John McDermitt (lot 15 concession 4) there are accumulations of blackened soil and ashbeds mixed with Huron relics This village site is near the line between the west and east halves of the lot but a little way into the east half It is situated on a conspicuous hill, almost surrounded by low ground (see illustration) and an account of occupying such a position it is evident (prima facie) that the village had been palisaded But in addition to this evidence the light iron crowbar I have usually employed in this work readily shewed the position of the palisade line around the village site. From this place to Ste Marie the distance is about a mile Just west of the site rise some springs from which the village had a plentiful supply of fresh water A workman while ploughing on the site some years ago found an earthen pot (which broke on being disturbed) and in it were six iron tomahawks Northward from the village there was a graveyard containing a few burials which, so far as observed were of the isolated or single type Among these one of the workmen found the skeleton of a person of large proportions Angus McDermitt brother of the owner connied twenty lodges at the site the ashbeds of the camp-fires being in some places as much as three feet in thickness when the forest was first cleared away

It is most probable the site is that of St Louis one of the Huron villages taken by the Iroquois March 16 1649—this one at which they captured the Jesuit missionaries Brebeut and Lalemant and thence took them to St Ignace—where they put them to death Among the considerations that lead up to this conclusion are the following —

(a) The size as reckoned by Mr McDermitt when it was freshly cultivated viz twenty lodges (and counting the usual number of four or five families to every lodge) would give nearly the size of St Louis as recorded by the Rev. Paul Ragueneau who wrote this first account of it According to that chronicler about 500 Hurons had forsaken the place at the first alarm—leaving 80 warriors only to fight the Iroquois

(b) It was on the only route from Ste Marie eastward to Victoria Harbour which was the centre of the Huron population then living in this locality, as remains clearly show The ground immediately south of this trail was, in Huron times unsuitable for much travelling its surface consisting of hummocks surrounded by thickets and by small streams flowing into Mud Lake. And so far as this southerly ground has been examined it yields no traces of villages or trails

(c) The relics found at this site are of such kinds (French iron tomahawks etc.) as to shew that this was a village of the very latest period of the Huron occupation of the district The existence of palisading also tends to prove the same because farther back in the country, the Huron villages of earlier date seldom had palisades. Of all the fortified villages belonging to that latest period yet found, this is the nearest to Ste. Marie

(d) As to the distance of St Louis from Ste Marie, a little apparent

The Probable Site of St. Louis

On the hill in this illustration are the remains of the palisaded Huron village

diversity in the evidence furnished by the records confronts us but it is apparent rather than real. The Rev. Paul Raguenau (Relation, 1649) gives us the distance as not more than a league (2.42 English miles), but Christophe Regnaut explicitly makes it much less. (See Leller, Canadian Archives Report 1884). The latter writer uses the name St. Ignace' (really applied to the mission among all these villages as Raguenau also tells us) for the village to which the two missionaries had set out, and does not mention the name "St. Louis". Regnaul gives the distance as about a short quarter of a league from Ste Marie. The site under consideration therefore is not at variance with the conditions prescribed by either of these writers or by the Rev. F. J. Breseani who (in his "Breve Relatione") says the distance was not more than two Italian miles from Ste. Marie. (An Italian mile was 1.32 yards less than our English mile). The Rev. A. E. Jones, S. J., disputes the testimony of Regnant as to this distance on the ground that his narrative is dated 29 years afterward when he was 65 years old and so perhaps liable to lapse of memory. (Ontario Archaeological Report 1902 p. 98). I do not see that it is necessary to contradict Regnault's plain honest statement, he is entitled to a fair hearing and a fair interpretation of his words. And the significant fact remains that the three men (Raguenau, Bressani and Regnaul) who mention the distance of the nearest village from Ste. Marie, Regnaut was the only one who actually travelled over the ground itself at the time viz., a few hours after the massacre.

(c) Wherever situated it is a fact that St. Louis could be seen from Ste. Marie as all the writers agree in stating that these in the fort could see the burning of the village. This furnishes a well-authenticated test. From observations made upon the ground I found that looking eastward from Ste. Marie the only place where spectators could see a fire in the distance was at this very site. A small tract of elevated ground rising out of evergreen thickets above the view from Ste. Marie toward the northeast and disqualifies the site farther along the trail at the head of Victoria Harbor from being St. Louis.

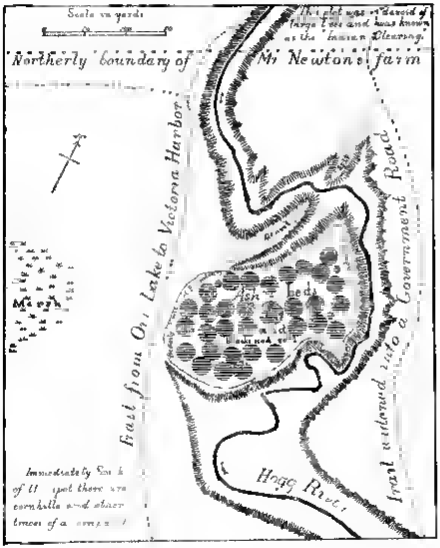
Port McNicoll the new eastern terminal of the C. P. R. on Georgian Bay lies about a mile north-eastward from this village site.

On the fill in this illustration are the remains of the palisaded Huron village

The Probable Site of St. Ignace
On the plot of ground in this loop of the Hogg River is the site of the palisaded Huron village

ST IGNACE IDENTIFIED WITH THE NEWTON VILLAGE SITE

The position of St Ignace has been an open question for many years As at least half a dozen places had been suggested the writer in 1899 visited all the Huron village sites within reasonable distance of Ste Marie


Scale in yards
This plot was covered with large trees and was known as the "maize Clearing."
Northerly boundary of Mr Newton's farm
East from Ont. Lake to Victoria Harbor
Road
Government
Hogg River

The probable site of St Ignace and its environs

on the Wye and after carefully considering the question in all its bearings arrived at a conclusion substantially as follows

The physical features of the land governed the courses of the forest trails of the Hurons The continuous high ground along which trails could pass makes its nearest approach to the Georgian Bay at the head of Victoria Harbor Here then was the commercial centre of the Hurons,

as it has also been of later Algonquin tribes. In other words the physical features of the district were such that Victoria Harbor naturally became the focus or centre of the Huron population, the trails radiating from the head of the harbor in several directions inland along the higher ground. It appears to have been this very centre, the heart of the Huron confederacy, the Iroquois attacked in 1649; otherwise the Hurons would not so precipitately have deserted their country immediately after the capture of only two of their villages, had these villages been of the ordinary unfortified kinds. (It should be borne in mind that Durrrux's map is a guide for the position of the earlier St. Ignace and not that of 1649)

Through the farm of Chas. E. Newton, Esq., the west half of lot 14, concession 6, Tay the Hogg River has cut a deep path in the old lake-bed deposits to a depth varying from fifteen to twenty feet. In this part of its course the river makes a loop something like the letter U, which encloses an ideal spot for a village requiring means of defence. (See Illustration)

Hurons selected for one of their villages this plot of ground containing about five acres in the bend of the river. This ground is covered with ashbeds and blackened soil mixed with relics. The latter consisted of iron tomahawks, knives, pieces of metal cut out of worn-out brass kettles, and pottery fragments in endless quantities. All these relics show that the site was one of those occupied down to the very latest period of the Huron occupation of the district. There are empty caches at the site, and a pottery fuel south of it where the clay is of such good quality for plastic work that Mr. Newton experimented successfully in making terra cotta from it. What appears to have been the village corn-patch" occurs southward near a house on lot 10 and it may have extended as far north as the site itself, although the cultivated ground no longer shows any traces of the corn hills. From this site to Ste. Marie the distance is 3¼ miles.

A trail comes from Orr Lake by the way of Waverley and just before reaching this village site divides into two strands, one passing down each side of the river. These meet again at the "Indian Clearing" further north on lot 12, as the diagram shows. The trail down the east side as far as the "Indian Clearing" and thence to the mouth of the river, was widened many years ago into a Government timber road, but is now disused. It is probable that so called "Indian Clearing" is due to the gravelly soil which would not permit of the growth of trees rather than to actual clearing by the aborigines. But whatever its origin it was certainly a resort of modern Algonquin Indians, who followed pretty closely the paths of their predecessors, the Hurons.

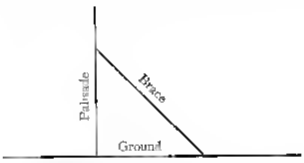
It is most probable that this site in the river's bend was St. Ignace, the Huron village captured by the Iroquois in the early morning of March 16, 1649, and the place to which they brought as captives Fathers Brebeuf and Lalemant a few hours later, and there tortured them to death. Its distance from Ste. Marie coincides pretty well with the records, all the writers agreeing that it was less than two leagues (five miles)—and about a league from St. Louis which agrees well with the site at Mr. McDermid's. But the strongest evidence is in the configuration of the ground. The Rev. P. Ragueneau's account of the place (Relation 1649) suggests a plan of the village and its surroundings, and tells us beforehand what appearances we may expect to find there. He says —

"It was surrounded by a palisade of posts from fifteen to sixteen feet

high and by a deep trench (fesse), with which Nature had powerfully strengthened the place on three sides a small space alone remaining weaker than the others It was thereby that part the enemy forced his entrance

While this description of St Ignace will suit in some measure almost any palisaded site because these were as a rule placed on a spur of land the completeness of its fortification by a trench effected by Nature in this case was such as to attract the attention of the chronicler who wrote the description just quoted (As the destruction of the place occurred in March when the Hogg River would be covered with ice, its own existence in the gulley or trench would not be conspicuous enough to attract a recorder's attention) After a diligent search through all the sites of the locality I can find none that so exactly agrees with this description of St Ignace as this site on Mr Newton's farm

LATER EXAMINATION OF THIS SITE The foregoing account is substantially the one the writer prepared after his examination of the site in 1899 and published a few months later Since that time he has



Cross Section of Palisade and Bracing

given further attention to the site at various times and has become even more firmly convinced that it was St Ignace The following particulars relate to evidence from examinations since the first account appeared

At different times when re-examining the palisading I used a light iron crow-bar (three-quarter inch four feet long) driving it into the ground repeatedly along numerous lines of holes selected from where the ashbeds and signs of habitation ceased and passing outward across the margin of the village site At every stroke the crowbar sinks to the depth of the plowing but along every line of holes made in this way it shews two places with softer subsoil by sinking to much greater depths In most cases these are about five feet apart and occur at the palisade line the outer being the palisade and the inner the feet of its line of braces The spade always shews disturbance in the color of the subsoil wherever the crowbar indicates the line by sinking deeper than usual The silted sand on this site was good material for the insertion of palisades by aboriginal methods but not good for preserving traces of the palisades themselves being too porous Some traces however of the palisading are left, in the blackening of the sandy subsoil below the plow's depth.

A conspicuous refuse heap toward the northwest quarter of the site received our attention. This yielded the usual ashes mingled with pot-shreds and waste of Huron food supplies, especially animal bones and teeth, clam shells, etc. But the significant feature was an abundance of traces of bark in the upper part of the heap, evidently debris from a collapsed bark cabin, and in this particular it differed from the former ordinary refuse heaps of my experience.

On April 28, 1902, the plow turned up a small bronze medal or token at a place near the easterly end of the site. On one side this bears the German motto "Gottesgaben sol man lob" (God's gifts ought to be praised). The other side has the name of Hanns Krauwinekel, with the letters "IN NU" i e. "in Nuremberg," which was famous for its manufactures in bronze. The material in the medal itself. It was not easy to obtain information of the maker, Hanns Krauwinekel, in Canadian libraries, but the writer was able to get a few particulars about him through the courtesy of Dr. Wilberforce Eames of the New York Public Library and Mr. Lyman H. Low, a specialist on coins and medals, 287 Fourth Ave., New York. This medal is what is called a counter and Hanns Krauwinekel was a maker of these at Nuremberg during the period from 1580 to 1604. These counters were restruck at later periods in thinner issues, to which class this Huron specimen belongs.

Within the northerly side of the palisade there is a line of whitish subsilance mixed with the soil, though now faintly defined from having been disturbed by the plough. A fragment of this crumbled deposit, when examined by a chemist at my request, proved to be old mortar. This line of deposit resembles the shape of the letter L, as if from two sides of a cabin, with lengths of about 10 feet and 15 feet, the angle of the letter pointing to a northerly direction. Its position is on the highest rise of this somewhat flat site and at its north side. As the Indians did not make and use mortar, this was doubtless the work of the Frenchmen. (The records contain evidence that the Jesuits maintained a lodge of some kind at St. Ignace.)

Indications such as the foregoing tend to show that this was St. Ignace. The Rev. A. E. Jones selected a spot about three miles farther from Ste. Marie since I fixed upon this Newton site, but the more distant place has not even yielded any indications of a Huron village site of any kind, as I have pointed out elsewhere. The proof of the question rests not so much upon theoretical assertions or claims as upon what evidence the ground itself furnishes. And the authentic evidences at the Newton site, as furnished by the use of the spade, have been gradually increasing.

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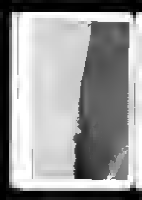

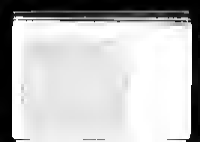

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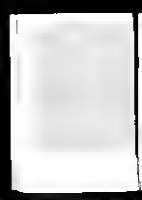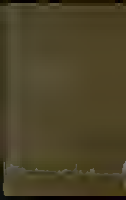
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